

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT DISCONTINUE REPAIRING
PRIVATE AIRCRAFT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence. Would the parliamentary secretary, in the name of the minister, assure the House and the country that the government, and particularly the Armed Forces, will discontinue the practice of repairing private aircraft in government installations to the detriment of operators in the private sector who are able and willing to carry out similar work?

Mr. Len Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker. I will not make any such commitment without consulting with the minister.

* * *

ENERGY

SAFEGUARDS ATTACHED TO SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. It deals with nuclear safeguards in connection with overseas sales of CANDU reactors. Bearing in mind the experience with India, can the hon. gentleman tell the House whether the government has considered as a condition attaching to overseas sales that all plutonium generated in CANDU reactors be returned to Canada for processing, or alternatively that purchasers accept a Canadian operating staff?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Perhaps I might respond to that question. The government has indeed, considered the first of the two alternatives suggested. By arrangement with the House leader I hope to be able to make a statement on the government's conclusions in this regard on Wednesday next.

* * *

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ASSIST HOME OWNERS WITH
COST OF REPAIRS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Would the minister tell the House what types of federal financial assistance are available to present home owners, designed to alleviate the burden of the increasing costs of home ownership repairs?

● (1530)

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no particular proposal for existing home owners, but we are introducing legislation under the new policy of the government to try to increase

[Mr. Lalonde.]

housing stock, as well as to make it possible for lower income families to buy moderately priced houses.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the factors contained in the housing component index, such as repairs, mortgage interest and dwelling insurance, have increased astronomically over the past few years, and because there appears to be little or no effective assistance available at the federal level to present home owners who must bear the brunt of these increased costs, would the minister consider the implementation of a program whereby a certain portion of mortgage interest payments would be made tax deductible from federal income tax?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we considered that but rejected it in the last budget.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF SUPPLY OF RINGS AND LIDS
FOR MASON JARS TO PRESERVE FOOD—REASON FOR LACK OF
PROTECTION FOR CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that Canadian fruit and vegetable producers must now initiate plans for next season's crops, and in view of the frustrations of the housewives of Canada this year resulting from the crucial shortage of rings and lids for the wide-mouthed Mason jars used for preserving these foods, would the minister advise the House what remedial action the government is initiating to alleviate this shortage and protect the producers and consumers of western Canada?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was listening, and being fully aware of his capabilities I am sure he will make sure that these important items are available for housewives in western Canada.

Mr. Whittaker: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the fact that Canadian manufacturers of these lids and rings have found western Canadian markets inaccessible in the past because of cheaper U.S. imports, would the minister advise the House why Canadian manufacturers were not protected against this competition that eventually left Canadians vulnerable to United States shortages and the ensuing abandonment of the Canadian market?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take that question as notice.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka pointed out that shel-